(b) The amount of its dues outstanding for over three months is Rs. 2223 crores as on 31.7.2001. This relates to lakhs of defaulters throughout the country, whose categorywise break-up is given below:

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

Break up of over three months old dues				
State	Central	Defence	Private	Total
165	46	50	1962	2223

(c) Steps taken to recover the outstanding dues include disconnection of the services provided to the defaulters, adjustment of deposits available with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and legal proceedings.

(d) As a result of the actions taken the amount outstanding has been contained at about two percent of the cumulative billing despite over 23% average annual growth in billing over the last four years.

Telephone Exchanges in Assam

1821. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of telephone exchanges functioning presently in each district of Assam alongwith location and capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The information regarding number of telephone exchanges functioning in each district of Assam and details of location and capacity is given at Annexure [*See Appendix 194, Annexure No. 15*]

Faults in Telephone System in Assam

1822. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone exchange-wise ratio of the faults recorded in telephone system in the rural and urban areas in Assam districts; and

(b) the number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in the rural areas of the State, district-wise?